



# CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 2013

## How to Reduce Vulnerability When Disasters Strike...

When disasters occur, it is the poor who suffer the most. For sixty-eight years, Covenanters have been responding generously to the poor through Covenant World Relief. In 2011, severe flooding affected more than twenty million people in Pakistan. Crops and herds were wiped out, houses were destroyed, and waterborne

**For every dollar spent reducing vulnerability, five dollars are saved in disaster relief costs.**

diseases spread throughout the population. CWR responded through our partners to provide life-saving relief. Months later, a local Christian organization requested assistance to help reduce the vulnerability of the poor when the next disaster happens. CWR is now partnering in a comprehensive disaster risk

reduction project among the poor in Pakistan. It is said that for every dollar spent reducing vulnerability, five dollars are saved in disaster relief costs. The majority of the funds donated to Covenant World Relief are used to address extreme poverty and injustice—through micro-enterprise development, agricultural development, community health, women's empowerment, education, vocational training, and provision of clean water.



Devastation after Moore, OK tornado.

These programs enable people to break out of the cycle of poverty. And that reduces their vulnerability to future disasters.

Covenant World Relief will continue the essential work of responding to disasters when they occur. However, we must continue to address extreme

poverty and injustice in order to strengthen vulnerable communities. Your investment in this work is critical. Please help make these lifesaving and life-transforming ministries possible by making a generous gift to Covenant World Relief today. Thank you!

## Response to the OKC Tornadoes

Covenanters respond generously to disasters. The recent deadly and destructive tornadoes in the Oklahoma City area have been no exception. We are grateful for the generous donations to CWR designated for tornado relief that have already come in from Covenant churches and individuals.

CWR is responding to the relief and recovery efforts with the Midsouth conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the five Covenant churches in the Oklahoma City area. At this early stage, the main response has been to provide food, clothing, supplies, and spiritual care. As volunteers are requested, we will notify you on Facebook and Twitter. At least six of those who died were connected to Covenant churches. The houses of hundreds of Covenanters were totally destroyed or damaged. Covenanters are caring for hurting Covenanters. The care also extends to all who have suffered loss in this disaster. Thanks to all who have given to make this care possible.

**“But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.”— PSALM 10:14**

## Ethiopia Water

Gonbisa Kussaye is a small farming community in Oromia, Ethiopia. The current water project there is nearing completion and we celebrate the changes in this community.

# 2000

The number of people being served by the Ethiopia Water Project.

# 8

MILES



The total length of water pipeline installed.



# 90

MINUTES

Many families used to walk as long as 90 minutes for water.

# 5

MINUTES



Now, those families walk only five minutes for water.

For more information and to give to CWR water projects, visit our website today at [CovChurch.org/cwr](http://CovChurch.org/cwr).

## Peace in Mexico

Kelya is an eighteen-year-old psychology student from Mexico. Before participating in the Mexico peace-making project, she says she felt insecure. She saw many families breaking down, many suffering from drug addiction or involved in drug trafficking. Many of her friends in her community became pregnant at a young age. Kelya suffered from insomnia and wept because of the tragedy all around her.



Keyla tutors a student in Mexico.

Through this project, she can talk about her feelings, she has gained new self-esteem, and she can support others better. Kelya says she is happy now and has hope for the future. She is an agent of change in her community as she shares her peacemaking skills with others.

## Soup-Can Banks Inspire Family

For many, many years my dad was the one who counted the Covenant World Relief banks for our church. He had the time to do it since he was retired, and he was a “detail person” so the tedious task of counting and wrapping hundreds of dollars in coins was something he enjoyed. Each year he would find things other than USA coins in the banks—foreign coins, buttons, bus tokens, tiddlywinks, etc. I can still see him sitting at the dining room table meticulously counting each bank. He was thrilled that such small amounts of money, faithfully given, could accomplish so much to help people in need all over the world.

When Dad no longer had the strength to carry all those coins to the bank, he would still do the counting and wrapping, and I would take the money to the bank for him. In the past several years, I have counted the banks often for our church. Each time I do, I think about the example my dad set for me of faithfully serving Christ and his church in this small way. Small acts of faithfulness, whether in giving or in counting what is given, are important. Thanks for the banks and for years of faithful giving and faithful serving that they inspired!

—Helen, First Covenant Church in Jamestown, NY

## Before & After: Tomatoes in Haiti

New agriculture technology in Haiti is making a difference with our partner World Relief.

Before  
CWR project:  
Diseased  
tomato plants



After CWR project:  
Healthy tomato plants